

REMARKS/ ARGUMENTS

Entry of the present amendment is respectfully requested. It is earnestly believed that the present amendment places the application in condition for allowance and, thus, entry of the amendment is appropriate.

The present amendment was not earlier presented because Applicant believed that the arguments submitted with the amendment dated June 30, 2003 overcame the rejections of the claims. The present amendment does not raise any new issues and does not require any further searching on the part of the Examiner. It is respectfully submitted that the present amendment places the application in condition for allowance and allowance is respectfully requested.

Claims 30-34 and 39 have been withdrawn.

Claims 20-23, 25-29, and 35-37 have been rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over the patent to Hashimoto (JP-09-039801) in view of Kreuzer (US patent no. 6,484,606).

STATEMENT CONCERNING COMMON OWNERSHIP

The instant patent application and the patent to Kreuzer (U.S. 6,484,606) were both owned by, or subject to an assignment to the same person, TRW Automotive Safety Systems GmbH & Co. KG, at the time the invention was made. The instant patent application was filed on November 28, 2001. Thus, 35 USC §103(c) effective November 29, 1999 is applicable to the application. The patent to Kreuzer is 35 USC §102(e) prior art. Thus, by making the statement concerning common

4). Thus, claims 20-23, 25-29 and 35-37 should therefore be allowable.

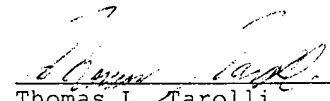
Claims 24 and 38 have been rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hashimoto (JP 09-039801) in view of Nishiguchi et al. (US 5,925,314).

Claim 24 depends from allowable claim 21 and claim 38 depends from allowable claim 35. Claims 24 and 38 merely constitute further limitations to an allowable claim and should therefore be allowable as well.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the above-identified application is in condition for allowance, and allowance of the above-identified application is respectfully requested.

Please charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment in the fees for this amendment to our Deposit Account No. 20-0090.

Respectfully submitted,


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